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FLOOR DEBATE

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out of state aid. Now this proposal is to go back and roll back one-half of the income tax reduction. I think that that leaves us with a fair mix of sources that we are looking to to solve our current or at least solve a large portion of our current budget difficulties. Again, I am going to note that even if we do as I'm suggesting and fervently asking you to approve this evening, that does not balance the budget. We're still going to be short. Now we won't know exactly until I see a fiscal note, but I would guess that we would be anywhere from maybe 10...maybe \$10 million off, maybe a little bit more. We're still not going to be balanced, so we might still have to look to the budget bills or to the budget bill for further reductions if that is possible. We may have to consider other alternatives if you wish to consider other alternatives. What is of primary importance this evening, I believe, is that we do what we can and move the bill to Select File so we can take up additional consideration of the budget bills. I will...have we been able to get that distributed? Okay, I think you now have on your desk the list of services and some repeal of exemptions that we would suggest to you. Some of these items, and you will see it on a sheet, they should total for the column that is fiscal year 203...2003, I'm sorry, you should see that there is a commencement date of 20...with a total of \$28,745,000. That would be if the bill had the emergency clause and we could implement that tax as of July 1st. It is more reasonable to suggest that we would implement that around October 1st, and then that yields closer to \$21 million because you have fewer months in the fiscal year in which to collect the tax. So if you see 28 here and you hear me talking about 21, it's the difference between implementation date. One implementation date is July 1st. The other implementation date is October 1st. The amendment that we'll have has an October 1st date in it if that is not too complicated. Now I understand that some folks are going to have some difficulty with what we're proposing. I've suggested more than once that we are not going to find an easy way to do what we need to do to balance the budget. So if this decision that we're going to ask you to make is a difficult one, and you tell me it's difficult, or you tell your colleagues or someone else that it is difficult, it is difficult, but there is no easy way to do what we need to do. Our large gap is too much. We have about an 80...we have about an 80 million dollar